



Rushmore Hockey Association (RHA) Underage Player Movement Policy

This Policy applies (on a per season basis) to those Players requesting assignment to a division above their age specific division.

Movement of Underage Players

In accordance with the RHA's desire of fielding B & C teams at all division, RHA also allows the movement of exceptional players to play as underage players in the next division (on a per season only basis). The purpose of this movement is to remain consistent with the concept of grouping players according to their skill level within their own age division in the interests of player development. In situations where an exceptional player does not fit into the skill set of the B team at their own age level, that exceptional player may submit a written request, to the RHA Board, PO Box 832, Rapid City, SD 57709, and shall be postmarked no later than two (2) weeks prior to the start of tryout process, to try out for the B team in the next division up.

RHA believes that players should be grouped together according to their hockey skills wherever possible. At the same time it is recognized that although a player may be skilled enough to play up a division, there are legitimate concerns that he or she may not be prepared mentally or socially. These aspects should be considered by the player and his/her family prior to making application to play up.

It is also a concern that whenever a player is moved up, in effect a spot on the team may be taken from a player of age. Only when an underage player is clearly an impact player on the team of the higher division should he or she be considered to play up, or a significant need is otherwise demonstrated. In addition, RHA will look to see if a play up is in the best interest of the Association and the teams affected by the request.

The RHA policy for player movement of underage players is that the exceptional player must be ranked by independent evaluators as being clearly capable of playing at the higher level.

The RHA Board has final decision and that will be conveyed to the applicant, and the decision shall be based on coach's feedback, as well as other factors presented to the Board by the applicant or others in RHA.

If a player receives permission from the Board to try out at a higher age division, that player shall try out with the higher age division team, if applicable. When tryouts are not applicable, both coaches from the respective age division must be given an opportunity to express their position to the Board regarding the play up request, prior to the final decision.

It may be determined after an initial play up approval, that it is in the best interest of the player to move back down to their original age division. These situations will be handled on a case by case basis and involve coaches at both levels and the board.

All requests to play up require parent signatures.

The Association may also request that a player play up for the benefit of the Association with the player and parent consent. The player with the highest evaluation score will be approached first. If that player and/or that player's parents are not willing to play up, the player with the next highest evaluation score will be approached. Final approval, under any circumstances, will be required from the Board.